

## **DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

Chris Christie Governor

Kim Guadagno Lt. Governor Division of Family Development P.O. Box 716 TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

Jennifer Velez Commissioner

Jeanette Page-Hawkins *Director* Tel. (609) 588-2000

The following Decision is distributed for your information. This Decision has been made in consideration of the specific facts of this case. This Decision is not to be interpreted as establishing any new mandatory policy or procedure otherwise officially promulgated.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FINAL DECISION

OAL DKT. NO. HPW 602-15 K.P.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C480273 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals the Respondent Agency's denial of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a the Food Stamp Program, benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On February 27, 2015, the Honorable Kelly J. Kirk, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents into evidence. On March 13, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision which affirmed the Agency determination.

No exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As the Deputy Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the record in this matter and the ALJ's Initial Decision, and having made an independent evaluation of the record, I ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in the Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency determination.

I agree with the ALJ's finding that Petitioner failed to timely provide adequate documentation to enable the Agency to determine the composition of the SNAP household. N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.1. Like the ALJ, I note inconsistencies in Petitioner's testimony and the documents he produced to the Agency, and in particular, his failure to provide a letter from his brother regarding his living arrangements.

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Accordingly, the Initial Decision is ADOPTED and the Agency determination is AFFIRMED.

MAR 2 3 2015

Signed Copy on File at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson **Deputy Director**